

SLMQ

SRI LANKAN MAJLIS - QATAR

SYMPOSIUM 2002





سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ

فَصَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ



Welcome to



SRI LANKAN MAJLIS - QATAR

SYMPOSIUM 2002

Saturday 18th May 2002
Givana Hall, Ramada Hotel
Doha - State of Qatar

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Patron's Message



It is with great pleasure that I send this message to the Souvenir to be published by the "Sri Lankan Majlis - Qatar" on the occasion of the "Annual Symposium".

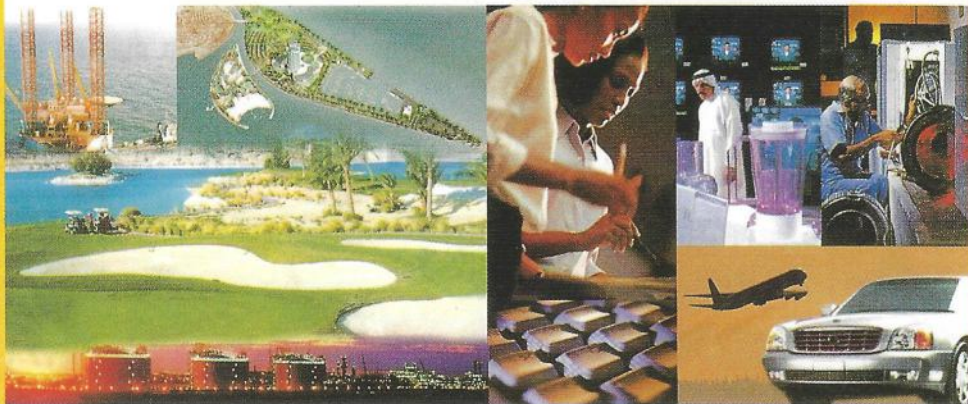
The main objective of the Sri Lankan Majlis is to carry out charitable work to assist the members by conducting educational, cultural, religious and educational programmes. To achieve these objectives during the past few months, after forming their association they have organized and conducted many programmes very successfully.

Even though the Sri Lankan Majlis is still very young, I am very happy to say that every members of the association is taking an active role in any programme. They are always with the Embassy and played an active role at the Independence Day Celebrations and other activities organized by the embassy. The secret of their success is unity and dedication for their cause.

I wish them all success in their future endeavors and sincerely hope that they continue their good work in the years ahead.

M. MAHROOF
AMBASSADOR OF SRI LANKA
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President's Message



In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious & The Most Merciful

Praise to Allah, Lord of the Universe. May Peace & Blessings Be upon His Final Prophet & Messenger.

Assalamu Allaikum Warahmathullahi Wabarakathuhu.

Alhamdulillah (All Praise Be To Allah), This day, 18 May 2002, is a remarkable day to the Sri Lankan Muslim Community in Qatar and to the Sri Lankan Majlis - Qatar, in particular, that highlights the first stepping stone of one of the prestigious annual events organized by the Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar (SLMQ) to bring the entire membership, sponsors, well-wishers together to discuss various issues that are to be launched in the years ahead mainly with the objective of serving our community with beneficial projects and events.

The progress to date is quite appealing and poses additional challenge to the Executive Committee Members, Members of the Sub-Committees and the entire Membership to spearhead in the coming future, by retaining the current progress and moving towards establishing a stronger and united group by setting examples for many others to follow.

It is with great pleasure and privilege I extend my heartfelt salaams and sincere appreciation to all the participants for gracing this occasion and making this first Annual Symposium 2002 a success. For any group or team to succeed it needs outstanding and high performing team players - Our team, have got the blend of individual performance, leadership and teamwork to go that extra mile in achieving the mission and the objectives of the Sri Lankan Majlis-Qatar. I thank my fellow members in the Executive Committee, the Members of the Sub-committees and the entire Membership for taking this start up organization off the ground and conducting activities in a positive and successful manner.

I would like to conclude with a positive note, with the blessings of Almighty Allah and your support as members of the Sri Lankan Majlis, Sponsors, Well-wishers etc., we are quite confident and determined to strive hard to take Sri Lankan Majlis-Qatar to the forefront.

On behalf of the Sri Lanka Majlis Executive Committee and the entire membership I express my gratitude and appreciation to our Patron the Ambassador of Sri Lanka Mr. Meerasahib Mahroof for his unblemished support and guidance that was available on time, every time.

Also, I express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the members of the Special Steering Committee who made this Symposium 2002 feasible and put in action.

Thank you very much for all what you have done.

"MAY ALMIGHTY ALLAH SHOWER HIS CHOICEST BLESSINGS ON ALL OF YOU"

Warmest regards,

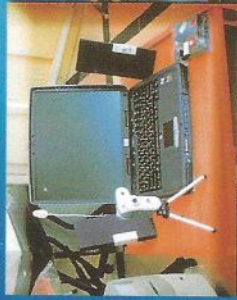
Mohamed Ikram Thowfeek - President, SLMQ

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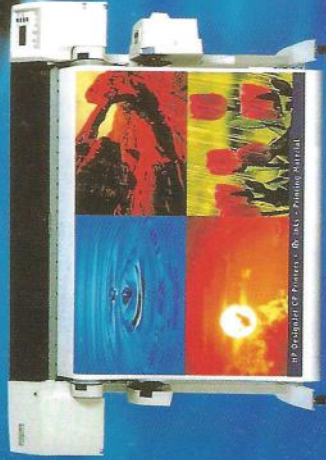
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Honorary General Secretary's Report



In the name of Allah The Most Gracious The Most Merciful

ASSALAAMU ALAIKUM

It is my honour and pleasure to present to this, our 1st Annual Symposium, the report of the activities of the Sri Lankan Majlis – Qatar.

The report in front of you is but a brief outline of work you and your Majlis have done since its inception. But even in its outline the report shows the depth and breadth of the work done by and for members during the short period of time. It is important to record the sum of our first year's work – but it is even more important to identify from that how we develop for the future.

I believe our 1st year has gone well – better than I could personally have hoped for. We are still in our infancy – but we have come a long way together in a very short span of time. We have seen our full time officers working together; we have witnessed the dedication and commitment our subcommittees have demonstrated by assiduously and competently carrying out their duties. Due to the over whelming support and encouragement we received from our members, we were able to successfully conduct many meaningful events: Ramadan Reception 2001, Eid Fiesta 2001, The Quran Classes – a long awaited need of our community and this Symposium.

We are very much grateful to our patron His Excellency Mr. Meerasahib Mahroof, The Ambassador of Sri Lanka to The State of Qatar, for his unblemished support and guidance we have been receiving from the outset. We sincerely acknowledge the support and generosity of all Brothers and Sisters for all the material help and spiritual support they have so willingly given. We wish to thank all our colleagues, members and everyone involved in the SLMQ's Affairs and in the execution of its duties and responsibilities.

We ask Allah (SWT) to guide us and to give us the wisdom to make the correct decisions and the strength to carry them out and grant us success in all our efforts.

May Allah bless us all.

Was Salaam

Mohamed Nazeem Yakooob
 Hon. General Secretary



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Message from the Editorial Committee



Dear Readers,

The Symposium 2002, of Sri Lankan Majlis-Qatar (SLMQ) is a new beginning for the Sri Lankan Muslim families living in Qatar. We are proud and privileged to be involved in compiling and publishing a souvenir to grace this occasion.

What is in your hand is the result of teamwork, support and contribution of the members of SLMQ. The overwhelming support we received from well wishers in the form of advertisements has encouraged us to do even better. We express our sincere thanks to all the organizations for the advertisements and our brothers for arranging the same.

To know the fact one should not depend on emotions, feelings, or traditions rather should depend on reasons and intellect. Based on this we have included articles, thoughts and pictures to make this souvenir more informative. We thank our fellow member brothers for their immense contribution.

Our special thanks to...

President, SLMQ, for his guidance and advice,

General Secretary, SLMQ for his ever available support and encouragement day and night,

EXCO and inauguration sub committee of SLMQ for the support, involvement and contribution,

We hope you will enjoy this souvenir, find it informative and will continue to support us in our future endeavors.

Editorial Committee,

Musthafa Muhajireen
Hilmy Ghaffoor
Arshard Ahmed



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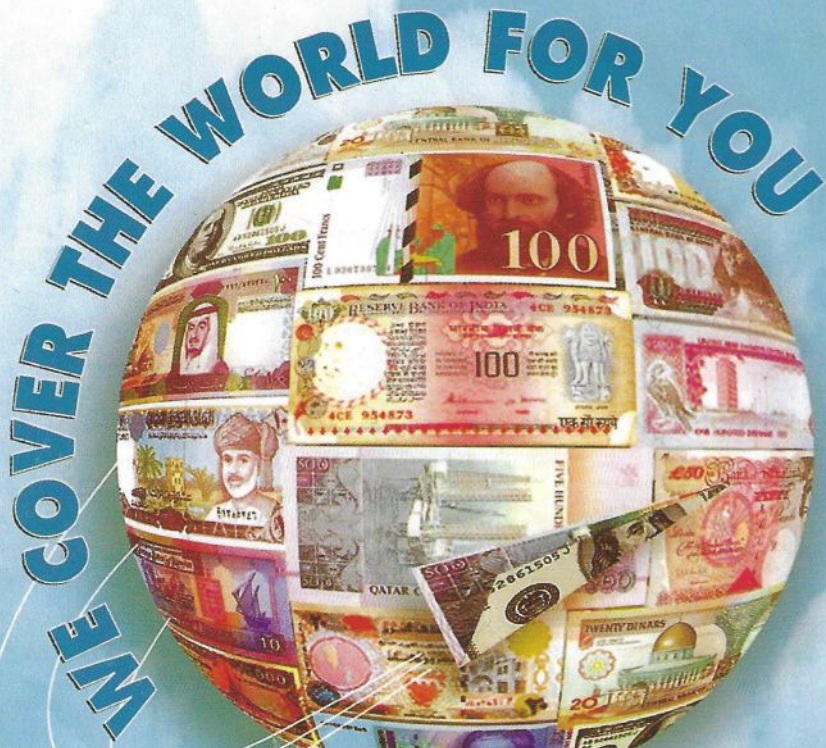
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Standing from left: Akram Iqbal, Mohamed Ziyam, Ameerudeen Moulana, Arshad Ahmed, Hilmy Ghaffoor, Musthafa Muhajireen, Mohamed Fahmy,
Seated from left: Mohamed Mansoor (Treasurer), Ikram Thowfeek (President), H.E. Meerasahib Mahroof (Patron), Fazlul Haque (Vice President), Nazeem Yakoob (General Secretary) **Absent:** Muhammed Shamil

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SYMPOSIUM ORGANISING COMMITTEE



Standing from Left : Mohamed Imtiaz, Mohamed Mansoor, Abdul Wahab, Ahamed Ajmal, Nusky Ariff, Mohamed Naleem, Mohamed Fahmy, Saif Marikkar.

Seated from Left : Hilmy Ghaffoor, Arshad Ahamed, Imtiaz Zavahir, Nazeem Yakoob, Ashraf Ali, Musthafa Muhajireen **Absent:** Irshad Wadood.

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Introduction to SLMQ

OUR MISSION

To bring together all Sri Lankan Muslim families resident in Qatar under a single united group by organizing & conducting activities that harness family togetherness.

OUR OBJECTIVES

To develop cordial ties among families, other associations and communities, by harnessing family gathering on various activities:

- ◆ Educational & Religious Activities
 - > Quran & Islam Teachings
 - > Language Classes – Sinhala, Tamil, Arabic etc.,
 - > Skill Development Programs – Leadership, Speech Craft Program etc.,
- ◆ Social & Welfare Activities
 - > Sports Events both Indoor and Outdoor
 - > Family Picnics
 - > Festival (EID) Get-togethers
- ◆ Charitable Activities
 - > Scholarship Funds on worth causes
 - > Charity Bazaars
- ◆ Other Events & Activities
 - > Public Lectures
 - > Seminars and Workshops

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

All Sri Lankan Muslim families resident in Qatar are eligible to apply for the membership by filling in an Application Form* and submitting it to the General Secretary or any Executive Committee Member with a subscription fee of QR 30 to cover three months membership fees payment in advance.

MEMBERSHIP FEE & PAYMENT

A membership fee of QR 10 per month, per family to be paid in advance quarterly to the Treasure or any other Executive Committee Member.

*Application Forms are available with the Executive Committee Members

NOW ON...

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KANJANI SAREES	QRS. 17
POONAM SHIFFON SAREE	QRS. 10
RIM ZIM SAREE	QRS. 28
PAYAL SHIFFON SAREE	QRS. 15
MESHINA SALWAR KAMEES	QRS. 33
TROUSER LENGHT	QRS. 10
FULL SLEEVE SHIRT PIECE	QRS. 8
GENTS KASHMIRI SHAWL	QRS. 18
ASHA CREPE SILK PTD. SAREE	QRS. 55

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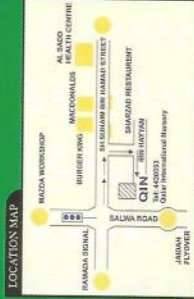
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SLMQ Subcommittees



SLMQ - SUB COMMITTEES

EDUCATION & RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

- E 4 Mohamed Mansoor
- E 11 Mohamed Imamudeen Shamil
- E 13 Anas Abdul Majeed
- E 14 Mohamed Junaid Mohamed Hasandeen
- E 16 Farook Mohamed Inthikaf
- E 33 Mohamed Salih Mohamed Mikdad
- E 41 Shahul Hameed Abdul Wahab
- E 46 Mohamed Uwais M.I
- E 47 Mohamed Jaward Riyas Mohamed
- E 50 Mohamed Izmi Rauf

MEMBERSHIP & WELFARE ACTIVITIES

- M 2 Fazlul Haque
- M 6 Hidayathulla Arshad Ahmed
- M 12 Mustafa Mohamed Muhajireen
- M 18 Mohamed Uwais Mohamed Aroos
- M 20 Mohamed Lafr
- M 32 Mohamed Neeaz
- M 43 Tuan Puthra Rahamath Toy
- M 51 Abdul Khaliq A. G.
- M 56 Mohamed Fazul
- M 60 J. Jasil Shafraz

PUBLIC RELATIONS (Local)

- R 1 Mohamed Ikram Thowfeek
- R 8 Mohamed Fahmy
- R 10 Mohamed Hilmy Ghafoor
- R 15 Mohinudeen Intiaz Ahmed Zavahir
- R 22 Newmathulla Mohamed Nilam
- R 23 Mohamed Irshad Rasheed
- R 24 Mohamed Abdul Wadood Irshad
- R 26 Mohamed Rizmy Sherif
- R 27 Saif Marikar
- R 30 Ahmed Ajmal Abdul Ghafoor
- R 31 Naina Marikar Ashraff Ali
- R 34 Arafath Mohamed
- R 35 Mohamed Faiz Mohamed Ali
- R 40 Abdul Samad Mohamed Faleel
- R 44 Noor Mohamed Mohamed Azeez
- R 48 Thajudeen Mohamed Husseindeen
- R 49 Sayed Rizan Moulana
- R 57 Mohamed Hanifa Ansari

SPORTS & SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

- S 7 Hanifa Mohamed Ziyam
- S 9 Mohamed Iqbal Akram
- S 17 Mohamed Naleem Abdul Raheem
- S 19 Mohamed Nalim Peer Mohamed
- S 21 Seiyed Lebbe Mohamed Jabir
- S 29 Mohamed Hazari Hussain
- S 36 Sinda Madhar Mohamed Fazly
- S 37 Mohamed Mahroof Mohamed Azard
- S 39 Shahul Hameed M.F
- S 52 Samsudeen Mohamed Imthiyas
- S 54 Tuan Haroon Raheem
- S 55 Tuan Lahireen Shaideen
- S 58 Mohamed Hilaly Salihu
- S 59 Mohamed Fauz

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- P 3 Mohamed Nazeem Yakooob
- P 5 Ameereudeen Moulana
- P 25 Tuan Farook Latiff
- P 28 Mohamed Yusef Mohamed Hussain
- P 38 Mohamed Sherif Mohamed Haleemdeen
- P 42 N.M.A.Ariff

ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY SUB-COMMITTEES

- 1 Organising Quran class
- 2 Islamic/Public lectures in English & Tamil
- 3 Sinhala Language classes
- 4 Computer classes for kids/ladies etc
- 5 Speech craft classes for kids
- 6 Elocution classes for kids
- 7 Special courses for ladies such as stitching, cookery, painting etc

- 1 Annual General Meeting
- 2 Special General Meeting
- 3 Coordinating meetings
- 4 Maintaining members' data
- 5 Facilitating new members
- 6 Inviting members
- 7 Maintaining discipline among the members
- 8 Designing & maintaining job bank

- 1 Coordinating sponsorship for various activities
- 2 Fund-raising for various activities
- 3 Arranging premises for various activities
- 4 Communicating with charitable organisations
- 5 Coordinating with volunteers
- 6 Coordinating prayers
- 7 Establishing & maintaining links to local & international Organisations

- 1 Annual Dinner & social gatherings
- 2 Regular Picnics for members
- 3 Eid fiesta
- 4 Swimming practices
- 5 Other sports activities

All other events/projects which are non nature such as:

- 1 Innuagration ceremony
- 2 Scholarship funds
- 3 Dates collection & distribution etc

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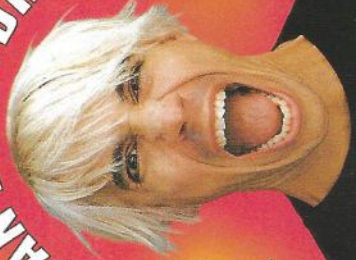
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Sri Lanka...



Size: 65,606 square kilometers.

Location: Island off the southern shores of India, 880 kilometers north of the equator.

Capital: Sri Jayawardapura Kotte (population 102,000).

Commercial Capital: Colombo (population 643,000).

Population: (1999): 19.04 million

Population density: 304 people per square kilometers.

Life expectancy birth: 74.2 female, 69.5 male.

Languages: Sinhala, Tamil, English.

English is widely spoken throughout Sri Lanka, with the exception of remote villages.

Literacy rate: 92.1 per cent.

Annual per capita GNP: US \$ 839

Ethnic mix: Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, Burghers, (descendants of Dutch and Portuguese colonist) and others.

Religion: Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Islam

Major exports: Textiles and garments, tea, diamond and jewellery, petroleum products, rubber products, gems, machinery and equipment, coconut products

Labour force: 37.4 per cent industry and commerce, 17.9 per cent service industries.

Climate: Lowlands tropical, average 27. C

Central Hill: cooler, with temperature dropping to 16 C. The southern monsoon brings rain to the western, southern and central region from May to July, while the northern monsoon occurs in the north and east in December and January.

Currency: Sri Lanka Rupee

Bank notes: - Rs10, Rs20, Rs50, Rs100, Rs200, Rs500, Rs1,000,

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Visas: Consult your local Sri Lankan embassy or consulate.

Working week: Sri Lanka a five-day week. From Monday to Friday.

Medical Facilities

The professional standards of doctors and surgeon are excellent, and many of them hold British qualifications. Good private facilities are also available at reasonable rates.

For emergency medical care, you should go to Colombo General Hospital, EW Perera Mawatha, Colombo 10, or the Sri Jawardenepura Hospitals at Pelawatte, Sri Jawardenepura. Although the latter is a 30 minutes drive from Colombo, it offers the latest medical facilities.

Useful contact numbers

Sri Lankan Airlines Ltd:

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Tel.: 073 5555. Telex: 21401 LANKAIR CE.

Fax: 073 5122.

E-mails: customer@srilankan.lk Website: srilankan.lk

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce:

50 Nawan Mawatha, Colombo 2. Tel: 421 745-7. Fax: 449352

Ceylon Tourist Board:

78 Steuart Place, Colombo 3. Tel. 437059-60. Telex: 21867 TOURBD CE.

Sri Lanka Export Development Board:

42 Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 2, Tel.: 300732. Telex: 21457 EXDEV CE Fax: 300715.

Board of Investment of Sri Lanka:

Trans Asia Hotel, 115, Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 2. Tel.: 544889, Fax: 448779. E-mail: eccsl@sltnet.lk

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General Information on Islam



Islam and Muslims

Islam is an Arabic word which means total submission to God, peace, purity, acceptance and commitment. As a religion, Islam calls for complete acceptance of the teachings and guidance of God. A Muslim is one who freely and willingly accepts the supreme power of God and strives to organize his life in total accord with the teachings of God. He also works for building social institutions which reflect the guidance of God. Muslims use the word "Allah" for the English word "God". The understanding of Deity in Islam differs from some of the connotations in the English word, God. For the convenience of English speaking readers, the word God is used in this brochure except when the word "Allah" is in the quotations from the Qur'an.

Continuity of The Message

Islam is not a new religion. It is, in essence, the same message and guidance which God revealed to all His previous messengers. "Say: We believe in Allah and that which was revealed to us, and that which was revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes and that which was given to Moses and Jesus and to the Prophets from their Lord; We make no distinction between any of them, and to Him we submit". Qur'an 3:83. The message which was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is Islam in its comprehensive, complete and final form.

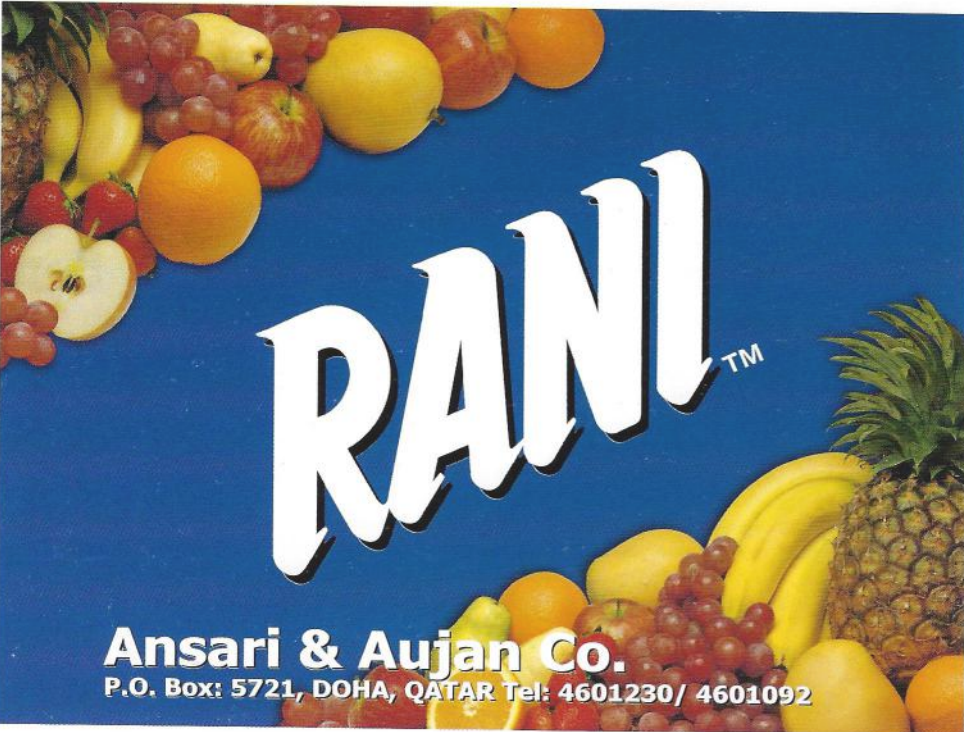
The Five Pillars of Islam

Every action done with the awareness that it fulfils the Will of God is considered an act of worship in Islam. But it is the specific acts of worship termed the Pillars of Islam which provide the framework of Muslim spiritual life. These are given below:

- 1. The DECLARATION OF FAITH** "I bear witness that there is no one worthy of worship except God (Allah), and that Muhammad is His servant and messenger." The Prophethood of Muhammad obliges Muslims to follow his exemplary life in every respect.
- 2. PRAYERS** are prescribed five times a day as a duty towards God. Prayer strengthens and enlivens belief in God and inspires man to higher morality. It purifies the heart and controls temptation, wrong-doing, and evil.
- 3. FASTING** during the month of Ramadan. This means abstention from food, beverages, and sex from dawn to sunset, and curbing evil intentions and desires. It teaches love, sincerity, and devotion. It develops patients, unselfishness, social conscience, and willpower to bear hardship.
- 4. ZAKAH** is a proportionately fixed contribution collected from the wealth and earning of the well to do and rich. It is spent on the poor and needy in particular, and the welfare of the society in general. The payment of Zakah purifies ones income and wealth and helps to establish economic balance and social justice in the society.
- 5. HAJJ** or pilgrimage to the Ka'bah in Makkah, once in a lifetime, provided one has the means to undertake the journey.

The Qur'an and Hadith

The Qur'an is the last revealed word of God and the basic source of Islamic teachings and laws. It deals with a variety of subjects including the basic beliefs of Islam, morality, worship, knowledge, wisdom, God-and-man relationships, and relations among human beings. Comprehensive teachings on which sound systems of social justice, politics, economics, legislation, jurisprudence, law and international relations can be built from an important part of the Holy Qur'an. Though Prophet Muhammad did not receive a formal education, the Qur'an, as soon as it was revealed to him in the



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